

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

CLUB LEVEL, INC.; and RYAN FILA a  
single man,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CITY OF WENATCHEE, a municipal  
corporation; WENATCHEE POLICE  
DEPARTMENT, an agency of the City  
of Wenatchee; CHIEF TOM ROBBINS in  
his individual capacity as Chief  
of the Wenatchee Police  
Department; CAPTAIN KEVIN DRESKER  
in his individual capacity as a  
Captain of the Wenatchee Police  
Department; SERGEANT CHERI SMITH  
in her individual capacity as a  
Sergeant of the Wenatchee Police  
Department; and SERGEANT MARK  
HUSON in his individual capacity  
as a Sergeant of the Wenatchee  
Police Department,

Defendants.

No. CV-12-0088-EFS

**ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND  
DENYING AS MOOT IN PART  
DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY  
JUDGMENT, DISMISSING PLAINTIFFS'  
STATE-LAW CLAIMS WITHOUT  
PREJUDICE, AND CLOSING FILE**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Before the Court, without oral argument, is Defendants City of  
Wenatchee, Wenatchee Police Department, Chief Tom Robbins, Captain  
Kevin Dresker, Sergeant Cherie Smith, and Sergeant Mark Huson's  
(collectively, "Defendants") Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings, ECF  
No. 86,<sup>1</sup> and Motion for Summary Judgment, ECF No. 103. Defendants ask

<sup>1</sup> Defendants' motion, ECF No. 86, was originally captioned as a Partial  
Motion to Dismiss for Failure to State a Claim. By separate Order dated

1 the Court to grant summary judgment on Plaintiffs Club Level, Inc. and  
2 Ryan Fila's Due Process, Equal Protection, Fourth Amendment, and First  
3 Amendment claims (the "federal claims"), as well as their negligent  
4 supervision, defamation, false light, unlawful conspiracy, negligent  
5 infliction of emotional distress, and outrage claims (the "state-law  
6 claims"). ECF No. 103. Defendants also move for judgment on the  
7 pleadings on Plaintiffs' state-law claims. ECF No. 86. Plaintiffs  
8 oppose both motions. Having reviewed the pleadings and the record in  
9 this matter, the Court is fully informed. For the reasons set forth  
10 below, the Court grants in part and denies as moot in part Defendants'  
11 motion for summary judgment, and dismisses Plaintiffs' state-law  
12 claims action without prejudice for lack of subject matter  
13 jurisdiction.

## 14 II. BACKGROUND

15 Plaintiffs bring several claims against Defendants arising out  
16 of interactions between Plaintiffs and various Wenatchee Police  
17 Department ("WPD") officers; in particular, Plaintiff Fila objects to  
18 the manner in which the WPD officers have policed his nightclub  
19 establishment and their conduct toward him and others with whom he  
20 associates. Plaintiffs seek monetary damages and injunctive relief.

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25 February 26, 2013, ECF No. 89, the Court construed the motion as a  
26 motion for judgment on the pleadings under Federal Rule of Civil  
Procedure 12(c), as Defendants had already answered the Complaint.

1 **A. Factual History<sup>2</sup>**

2 Plaintiff Club Level, Inc. ("Club Level") is a Wenatchee-area  
3 business, owned by Fila, which operates a nightclub establishment by  
4 the same name. Club Level is licensed to sell liquor by the  
5 Washington State Liquor Control Board ("WSLCB"). Since Fila assumed  
6 control of Club Level in August 2010, Club Level's employees and its  
7 patrons have, on many occasions, required police assistance with  
8 disruptive patrons and other disturbances.

9 Police have repeatedly conducted "walk-throughs" of the  
10 business, ECF No. 115, at 4, which Plaintiffs believe were efforts to  
11 impact the nightclub's license to sell alcohol. *Id.* During one walk-  
12 through, Defendant Huson entered a private employee area. ECF No.  
13 116, at 12. Additionally, after Club Level moved to a new location  
14 and began operating under a temporary liquor license, WSLCB Sergeant  
15 Stensatter cited the establishment for inadequate lighting and sought  
16 to "pull" the temporary liquor license as a result. ECF No. 116, at  
17 11.

18 Plaintiffs allege that on numerous occasions, WPD officers have  
19 refused to remove disruptive individuals from Club Level after being  
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21 <sup>2</sup> In considering Defendants' summary judgment motion and reciting the  
22 relevant factual history, the Court 1) believed the undisputed facts and  
23 the non-moving party's evidence, 2) drew all justifiable inferences  
24 therefrom in the non-moving party's favor, 3) did not weigh the evidence  
25 or assess credibility, and 4) did not accept assertions made by the non-  
26 moving party that were flatly contradicted by the record. *Anderson v.*  
*Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 255 (1986); *Scott v. Harris*, 550 U.S.  
372, 380 (2007).

1 asked to do so by employees, and that police have engaged in an  
2 ongoing effort to deprive Club Level of its liquor license.  
3 Plaintiffs contend Defendants have intentionally increased the police  
4 presence at Club Level as a form of harassment and to deter patrons  
5 from frequenting the nightclub. Plaintiffs allege that Sergeant Huson  
6 is largely responsible for WPD's enforcement actions towards Club  
7 Level. Fila, a gay male, alleges that Sergeant Huson is openly  
8 hostile towards gays and lesbians, and that his enforcement efforts  
9 arise from discriminatory animus.

10 In sum, Plaintiffs allege that WPD's treatment of Club Level  
11 varies significantly from the treatment accorded to other bars and  
12 nightclubs in Club Level's immediate vicinity. Fila alleges that  
13 police officers have conducted excessive records searches concerning  
14 him and his vehicles, have engaged in repeated and invasive  
15 surveillance of his residence, have targeted him for issuance of  
16 numerous parking tickets, and have refused to investigate acts of  
17 vandalism directed at his property. When Club Level employees have  
18 sought to videotape WPD officers engaged in law enforcement activity  
19 on the property, Plaintiffs allege that the WPD officers have  
20 threatened to arrest the employees for no cause. According to  
21 Plaintiffs, WPD has forwarded twenty-six police reports directly to  
22 WSLCB, ECF No. 116, at 15. Defendant Dresker indicated in internal  
23 department communications that WPD might need to pressure WSLCB to  
24 shut the business down. ECF No. 116, at 4.

25 Throughout much of Fila's strained interactions with WPD, he  
26 maintained a personal friendship with WPD Sergeant Stephyne Silvestre.

1 In late 2010 and early 2011, Sergeant Silvestre was the subject of an  
2 internal WPD investigation over allegations of improper off-duty  
3 employment at Club Level. Defendant Dresker allegedly told Sergeant  
4 Silvestre that Fila was "the beginning and end of all [her] problems."  
5 ECF No. 166, at 19. During the same investigation, WPD Detective  
6 Sergeant Kruse interviewed several people, including those who had  
7 business relationships with Fila. In particular, Detective Kruse  
8 interviewed Ms. Gillian Bebrun, the personal friend of Ms. Jan  
9 Thompson. Ms. Thompson is the daughter of Ileen Geddis, an elderly  
10 woman with whom Fila was residing in a professional caretaking role.  
11 Ms. Bebrun stated to Detective Kruse "that it was her impression that  
12 [Fila] was a manipulative individual who was financially exploiting  
13 Ms. Thompson." Several statements to this effect were included in  
14 Detective Kruse's investigative report of Sergeant Silvestre, which  
15 was placed in her employment file and ultimately disclosed to the  
16 Wenatchee World newspaper following a Public Records Act request.  
17 Fila alleges these statements were defamatory and harmed his  
18 reputation and business.

19 **B. Procedural History**

20 On February 8, 2012, Plaintiffs filed the instant Complaint. On  
21 February 23, 2013, Plaintiffs moved for a temporary restraining order  
22 prohibiting WPD officers from entering Club Level unless directly  
23 called for service by a Club Level employee or patron. ECF No. 4. On  
24 April 4, 2013, the Court orally denied Plaintiffs' motion, ECF No. 43,  
25 and supplemented the ruling with a written order the following day,  
26 ECF No. 44. Defendants answered the complaint on May 24, 2012. ECF

1 No. 45. Since that time, the parties have engaged in several  
2 discovery-related disputes. See, e.g., ECF Nos. 53, 78, & 92. On  
3 February 22, 2013, Defendants filed a motion for judgment on the  
4 pleadings with respect to Plaintiffs' state law claims. ECF No. 86.  
5 On April 12, 2013, Defendants moved for summary judgment on all of  
6 Plaintiffs' claims. ECF No. 103.

### 7 **III. DISCUSSION**

8 Although Defendants have filed motions for judgment on the  
9 pleadings and for summary judgment, for reasons of judicial economy,  
10 the Court only addresses the summary judgment motion as it pertains to  
11 Plaintiffs' § 1983 claims.

#### 12 **A. Legal Standard for Summary Judgment**

13 Summary judgment is appropriate if the "pleadings, the discovery  
14 and disclosure materials on file, and any affidavits show that there  
15 is no genuine issue as to any material fact and that the moving party  
16 is entitled to judgment as a matter of law." Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c).  
17 Once a party has moved for summary judgment, the opposing party must  
18 point to specific facts establishing that there is a genuine issue for  
19 trial. *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 324 (1986). If the  
20 nonmoving party fails to make such a showing for any of the elements  
21 essential to its case for which it bears the burden of proof, the  
22 trial court should grant the summary judgment motion. *Id.* at 322.  
23 "When the moving party has carried its burden . . . [showing that it  
24 is entitled to judgment as a matter of law], its opponent must do more  
25 than show that there is some metaphysical doubt as to material facts."  
26 *Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp.*, 475 U.S. 574, 586-

87 (1986). "In the language of the Rule [56], the nonmoving party must come forward with 'specific facts showing that there is a genuine issue for trial.'" *Id.* (emphasis in original) (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(e)). When considering a motion for summary judgment, the Court does not weigh the evidence or assess credibility; instead, "the evidence of the non-movant is to be believed, and all justifiable inferences are to be drawn in his favor." *Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 255 (1986).

#### B. Analysis

Plaintiffs assert four claims under § 1983, which provides that [e]very person who, under color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage, of any State . . . subjects, or causes to be subjected, any citizen of the United States . . . to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws, shall be liable to the party injured in an action at law, suit in equity, or other proper proceeding for redress . . . .

42 U.S.C. § 1983. To establish a prima facie case under § 1983, the plaintiff must first show that the wrongful conduct was committed under color of state law. *West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988). Here, Defendants do not dispute their actions occurred under color of state law. *See, e.g., Lugar v. Edmondson Oil Co.*, 457 U.S. 922, 999 (1982) (defining color of state law as "[m]isuses of power possessed by the virtue of state law and made possible only because the wrongdoer is clothed with the authority of state law.>").

The second element of a § 1983 claim is that the wrongful conduct violated a constitutional right. *West*, 487 U.S. at 48. Defendants assert that Plaintiffs' § 1983 claims fail as a matter of law because Plaintiffs cannot show Defendants violated a

1 constitutional right. Alternatively, Defendants assert they are  
2 entitled to qualified immunity on each of Plaintiffs' § 1983 claims.

3 1. Due Process Claim

4 Plaintiffs assert a due process violation based on Fila's right  
5 to pursue an occupation. ECF No. 115, at 3-5. Defendants argue  
6 summary judgment is appropriate because Plaintiffs cannot prove the  
7 elements of the claim.

8 The Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process clause has been  
9 interpreted to protect "a liberty or property interest in pursuing the  
10 'common occupations or professions of life.'" *Lebbos v. Judges of*  
11 *Super. Ct., Santa Clara Cnty.*, 883 F.2d 810, 818 (9th Cir. 1989)  
12 (quoting *Benigni v. City of Hemet*, 879 F.2d 473, 478 (9th Cir. 1988)).  
13 To demonstrate a violation of this right, a plaintiff must show 1) an  
14 inability to pursue a profession and 2) "that this inability is due to  
15 the actions that were clearly arbitrary and unreasonable, having no  
16 substantial relation to the public health, safety, morals, or general  
17 welfare." *FDIC v. Henderson*, 940 F.2d 465, 474 (9th Cir. 1991)  
18 (citing *Lebbos*, 883 F.2d at 818). The right to pursue an occupation  
19 is highly generalized, encompassing "the right to pursue an entire  
20 profession, and not the right to pursue a particular job." *Engquist*  
21 *v. Or. Dept. of Agric.*, 478 F.3d 985, 998 (9th Cir. 2007).

22 In *Engquist*, the court held that substantive due process does  
23 not protect a person's entitlement to a specific job. *Id.* at 999. In  
24 that case, the plaintiff Engquist worked in a laboratory for the  
25 Oregon Department of Agriculture but lost her position during a  
26 reorganization. *Id.* at 991. Engquist's supervisors made defamatory



1 statements about Engquist to two or three people in the industry, and  
2 Engquist was subsequently unable to find work in her field of  
3 "microbiology, food technology, and food science." *Id.* The court  
4 found that Engquist's inability to find work was a result of her  
5 highly specialized field, and not the defamatory statements. *Id.* at  
6 999. The court determined that Engquist had offered no evidence  
7 correlating the defamatory statements with her inability to find work.  
8 *Id.*; see also *DiMartini v. Ferrin*, 889 F.2d 922, 927 (9th Cir. 1989)  
9 (finding no due process violation when casino employee was allegedly  
10 fired for not cooperating in an investigation because no evidence  
11 showed former employee could not find work in the industry).

12 Plaintiffs rely heavily on *Benigni* in opposing summary judgment.  
13 ECF No. 115, at 3-5. In *Benigni*, a bar owner claimed that the City of  
14 Hemet's police officers violated his due process, equal protection,  
15 free association, and Fourth Amendment rights by, *inter alia*,  
16 performing bar checks on a daily basis, following bar customers as  
17 they left, issuing parking tickets to bar staff and patrons, and  
18 parking across the street to "stake out" the bar. *Benigni*, 879 F.2d  
19 at 475. A jury awarded the bar owner nearly \$300,000 in compensatory  
20 and punitive damages. *Id.* On appeal, the Ninth Circuit found the  
21 evidence in the case was sufficient to support the verdict for the  
22 plaintiff. *Id.* at 476. However, the court in *Benigni* did not address  
23 whether the bar owner had demonstrated sufficient deprivation of his  
24 right to pursue a profession; instead, the Ninth Circuit's  
25 sufficiency-of-the-evidence review was "extraordinarily deferential"  
26 to the ultimate verdict. *Id.* Moreover, *Benigni* is unpersuasive

1 because it was decided before the Ninth Circuit established the two-  
2 part test for right-to-pursue-occupation due process claims. See,  
3 e.g., *Henderson*, 940 F.2d at 474 (citing *Lebbos*, 883 F.2d at 818).

4 Under this two-prong test, Plaintiffs must first show that Fila  
5 is no longer able to pursue employment in the bar or nightclub  
6 industry. Fila alleges that Defendants acted with the intent to shut  
7 down Club Level; however, the Complaint does not indicate that Club  
8 Level has ceased operating, and even if it had, Plaintiffs have  
9 adduced no evidence that Fila has been unable to find other work in  
10 the industry.

11 As to the second prong, Plaintiffs offer no evidence that  
12 Defendants' actions were "clearly arbitrary and unreasonable, having  
13 no substantial relation to the public health, safety, morals, or  
14 general welfare." *Lebbos*, 883 F.2d at 818. Even when viewed in the  
15 light most favorable to Plaintiffs, the evidence demonstrates that the  
16 officers were concerned about ongoing public disturbances being caused  
17 by Club Level's patrons, and that they began issuing citations for  
18 violations of statutes designed to protect the general welfare,  
19 health, and safety of the community. Plaintiff has provided no  
20 evidence to show that Defendants' actions were arbitrary or  
21 unreasonable.

22 In sum, even when viewed in the light most favorable to  
23 Plaintiffs, the record before the Court is insufficient as a matter of  
24 law to establish the elements of a substantive due process violation.

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1           2.   Equal Protection Claim

2           Plaintiffs also allege an Equal Protection claim based on the  
3 amount of law enforcement activity at Club Level as compared to  
4 similar businesses in Wenatchee. Compl. ¶ 6.4, ECF No. 1, at 17. In  
5 response to Defendants' summary judgment motion, Plaintiffs  
6 voluntarily withdraw their Equal Protection claim. ECF No. 115, at  
7 14. Therefore, summary judgment on this claim is moot.

8           3.   Search and Seizure Claim

9           Plaintiffs assert a Fourth Amendment claim based Defendant  
10 Huson's entry into an employee area inside Club Level. ECF No. 116,  
11 at 18. Defendants do not dispute Plaintiffs' account of this incident  
12 but instead move for summary judgment as a matter of law. Defendants  
13 cite RCW 66.28.090(1) and WAC 314-01-005, which explicitly require  
14 business with liquor licenses to make available for inspection at all  
15 times any area of the business that is available or open to customers  
16 or employees.

17           The Fourth Amendment gives all persons the right to be secure  
18 "against unreasonable searches and seizures." U.S. Const. amend. IV.  
19 To be a "search" under the Fourth Amendment, there are two  
20 requirements: "first that a person have exhibited an actual  
21 (subjective) expectation of privacy and, second, that the expectation  
22 be one that society is prepared to recognize as 'reasonable.'" *Katz*  
23 *v. United States*, 389 U.S. 347, 361 (1967) (Harlan, J., concurring).  
24 The Supreme Court has recognized that an expectation of privacy exists  
25 in a commercial setting, albeit a lesser expectation than exists in an  
26 individual's home. *New York v. Burger*, 482 U.S. 691, 699 (1987). The

1 expectation of privacy is "particularly attenuated" in "closely  
 2 regulated" industries. *Id.* The liquor industry has long been subject  
 3 to "close supervision and inspection." *Colonnade Catering Corp. v.*  
 4 *United States*, 397 U.S. 72, 75 (1970); see also RCW 66.28.090-  
 5 66.28.340.

6 Even assuming Plaintiffs had a subjective expectation of privacy  
 7 in the employee area, Plaintiffs' claim fails as a matter of law  
 8 because society does not recognize that expectation as reasonable.  
 9 Washington has chosen to closely regulate the liquor industry and to  
 10 authorize the inspection of liquor-licensed premises, and in  
 11 particular, any areas of those premises which are open to customers or  
 12 employees.<sup>3</sup>

13 Plaintiffs rely on a recent Washington case where a compliance  
 14 check was not considered a search under the Fourth Amendment because  
 15 the officers only entered public areas. *Dodge City Saloon, Inc. v.*  
 16 *Wash. State Liquor Control Bd.*, 168 Wn. App. 388, 398 (2012). In  
 17 essence, Plaintiffs distinguish *Dodge City* by suggesting that entry  
 18 into a non-public area would constitute a search. Plaintiffs are  
 19 correct that dicta from *Dodge City* suggests that an intrusion into  
 20 areas not open to the public ordinarily requires a search warrant.  
 21 See *id.* (citing *See v. City of Seattle*, 387 U.S. 541, 545 (1967)).

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22  
 23 <sup>3</sup> The Revised Code of Washington requires all premises with a liquor to be  
 24 open for inspection at all times by any liquor enforcement officer,  
 25 inspector, or peace officer. RCW 66.28.090(1). Licensed premises are  
 26 defined as all areas "under legal control of the licensee [which are]  
 available to or used by customers and/or employees in the conduct of  
 business operations . . . ." WAC 314-01-005.

1 This dicta, however, predates the two-part reasonable-expectation-of-  
2 privacy standard set forth by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Katz*. And the  
3 See case, on which *Dodge City* relies, is inapposite; commercial  
4 warehouses are not a closely regulated industry in the way that the  
5 liquor industry is.

6 Even construing the facts in a light most favorable to  
7 Plaintiffs, they offer nothing to show that any subjective expectation  
8 of privacy they may have had in the employee area was reasonable.

9 4. First Amendment Claim

10 Plaintiffs assert a First Amendment claim based on Defendants'  
11 alleged interference in the personal relationship between Fila and  
12 Sergeant Silvestre. ECF No. 1, at 17. Defendants seek summary  
13 judgment because Plaintiffs have not produced evidence showing Fila's  
14 relationship with Sergeant Silvestre<sup>4</sup> has ceased since the alleged  
15 interference.

16 Plaintiffs' claim fails for two reasons. First, it is an  
17 impermissible derivative claim because it asserts the constitutional  
18 rights of a third party; and second, Plaintiffs have not adduced  
19 sufficient evidence of a First Amendment violation.

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21 <sup>4</sup> Fila also alleges First Amendment claims relating to his relationship  
22 with Sergeant West and Officer Shaw. However, he offers no evidence  
23 with respect to the nature of his relationship – or the termination  
24 thereof – with respect to these officers. Moreover, he has not shown  
25 that his relationship with these officers is materially different from  
26 the relationship he maintains with Sergeant Silvestre. Accordingly, the  
Court declines to address Fila's claim with respect to Sergeant West and  
Officer Shaw.

1           a.     Derivative Claim

2           Constitutional rights are personal and cannot be enforced by  
3 third parties. *Buckley v. Fitzsimmons*, 20 F.3d 789, 795 (7th Cir.  
4 1994); see also *Safouane v. Fleck*, 226 Fed. Appx. 753 (9th Cir. 2007).  
5 Courts generally do not entertain claims where a plaintiff asserts  
6 violation of another person's constitutional rights. *McCollum v. Cal.*  
7 *Dept. of Corr. & Rehab.*, 647 F.3d 870, 878 (9th Cir. 2011). That  
8 said, a plaintiff can establish third-party standing by showing "his  
9 own injury, a close relationship between himself and the parties whose  
10 rights he asserts, and the inability of the parties to assert their  
11 own rights." *Id.* (citing *Powers v. Ohio*, 499 U.S. 400, 408-09  
12 (1990)).

13           In this case, Defendants' alleged act of pressuring Sergeant  
14 Silvestre to limit or terminate her contact with Fila was directed at  
15 Sergeant Silvestre, not Fila. Fila has not shown that his right to  
16 seek out and form relationships was affected, or that any of  
17 Defendants' conduct was intended to affect such rights. He also has  
18 failed to establish at least two of the three requirements of third-  
19 party standing: 1) harm to his relationship with Silvestre, and 2)  
20 Silvestre's inability to assert her own rights. To the extent  
21 Defendants' actions may have violated the rights of Sergeant  
22 Silvestre, she can pursue her own claim and vindicate her own rights.

23           b.     First Amendment Violation

24           Even if Defendants' actions could be construed as interfering  
25 with Fila's First Amendment right of association, Fila has failed to  
26 state an actionable claim. Fila must show that 1) the association was

1 protected, and 2) the governmental restriction on the relationship  
2 survives strict scrutiny. *See, e.g., Roberts v. U.S. Jaycees*, 468  
3 U.S. 609, 617 (1984).

4 Freedom of association has two forms: intimate association and  
5 expressive association. *Id.* at 617. There is no protected  
6 "generalized right of social association." *City of Dallas v.*  
7 *Stanglin*, 490 U.S. 19, 25 (1989). Expressive associations can form  
8 "in pursuit of a wide variety of political, social, economic,  
9 educational, religious, and cultural ends." *Jaycees*, 468 U.S. at 622.  
10 Intimate associations are the "choices to enter into and maintain  
11 certain intimate human relationships." *Id.* at 617. To determine if a  
12 relationship is intimate, the court looks to "size, purpose,  
13 selectivity, and whether others are excluded from critical aspects of  
14 the relationship." *Bd. of Dirs. of Rotary Int'l v. Rotary Club of*  
15 *Duarte*, 481 U.S. 537, 546 (1987); *see also Jaycees*, 468 U.S. at 620.

16 For example, the relationship between roommates was recently  
17 found to qualify as an intimate association. *Fair Hous. Council of*  
18 *San Fernando Valley v. Roommate.com, LLC*, 666 F.3d 1216, 1220 (9th  
19 Cir. 2012). *In Roommate.com*, the court reasoned that people only have  
20 a few roommates, and they are selective in who they choose as  
21 roommates. *Id.* Additionally, as the court explained, there are few  
22 relationships more intimate than that of a roommate, who learns deeply  
23 personal information by virtue of cohabitation. *Id.*

24 In this case, Fila has offered no evidence that his relationship  
25 with Sergeant Silvestre was a protected association. There is no  
26 indication that the relationship shares any of the characteristics of

1 expressive association, such as pursuit of political or cultural  
2 goals. Likewise, there is no evidence the parties share an intimate  
3 association. Plaintiffs provide no facts showing the purpose or  
4 selectivity of the relationship, or whether others are excluded from  
5 its critical aspects. In the absence of such evidence, Plaintiffs  
6 have failed to raise a genuine issue of material fact about whether  
7 Fila's relationship with Sergeant Silvestre qualifies as a protected  
8 association. Summary judgment is therefore proper.

9 5. Qualified Immunity

10 Although the Court has concluded that Defendants are entitled to  
11 summary judgment on each of Plaintiffs' § 1983 claims for failure to  
12 state a claim, the Court also finds that Defendants are entitled to  
13 qualified immunity on each claim. "The doctrine of qualified immunity  
14 protects government officials 'from liability for civil damages  
15 insofar as their conduct does not violate clearly established  
16 statutory or constitutional rights of which a reasonable person would  
17 have known.'" *Pearson v. Callahan*, 555 U.S. 223, 231 (2009) (quoting  
18 *Harlow v. Fitzgerald*, 457 U.S. 800, 818 (1982)). To avoid dismissal  
19 of claims on qualified immunity grounds, a plaintiff must show that 1)  
20 the defendants violated a constitutional right; and 2) the right was  
21 "clearly established" at the time of the alleged violation. *Id.* at  
22 236.

23 "A [g]overnment official's conduct violates clearly established  
24 law when, at the time of the challenged conduct, "[t]he contours of  
25 [a] right [are] sufficiently clear" that every "reasonable official  
26 would have understood that what he is doing violates that right."



1 *Ashcroft v. al-Kidd*, 131 S. Ct. 2074, 2083 (2011) (quoting *Anderson v.*  
2 *Creighton*, 483 U.S. 635, 640 (1987)). The "existence of a statute or  
3 ordinance authorizing particular conduct is a factor" weighing in  
4 favor of concluding that a reasonable officer would consider the  
5 conduct constitutional. *Grossman v. City of Portland*, 33 F.3d 1200,  
6 1209 (9th Cir. 1994).

7 Here, as to Plaintiffs' Due Process claim, Plaintiffs have not  
8 shown that every reasonable officer would have known that targeting a  
9 nightclub with lawfully issued citations, with the intent of  
10 forwarding them to the WSLCB, violated Plaintiffs' constitutional  
11 right to due process. Plaintiffs have cited no authority that would  
12 put a reasonable officer on notice of the wrongfulness of this  
13 conduct. In fact, there is authority to the contrary on this point.  
14 See, e.g., *Freeman v. City of Santa Ana*, 68 F.3d 1180, 1188-89 (9th  
15 Cir. 1995). At best, Plaintiffs have demonstrated that officers  
16 issued lawful citations and acted within the statutory power given to  
17 them, which is a significant factor in showing that a reasonable  
18 officer would consider the action constitutional. *Grossman*, 33 F.3d  
19 at 1209.

20 As to the Fourth Amendment claim, Plaintiffs again fail to show  
21 that every reasonable officer would have known that entering into the  
22 employee area would be a violation of a constitutional right.  
23 Washington's liquor enforcement laws require licensed premises to "at  
24 all times be open to inspection." RCW 66.28.090(1). This statutory  
25 authority strongly indicates that a reasonable officer would find  
26

1 entry into the employee area to be constitutional. *Grossman*, 33 F.3d  
2 at 1209.

3 Finally, as to Plaintiffs' First Amendment claim, they have not  
4 demonstrated that every reasonable officer would have known that  
5 discouraging a fellow officer from having a social relationship with  
6 Fila amounted to a constitutional violation. Plaintiffs have not  
7 shown that every reasonable officer would have been aware that 1) the  
8 relationship between Silvestre and Fila was protected under the First  
9 Amendment as an intimate or expressive association, or 2) mere  
10 comments to Silvestre about her relationship with Fila violated Fila's  
11 rights.

12 Accordingly, even if Plaintiffs had stated viable claims under §  
13 1983, the Court finds the individual Defendants are entitled to  
14 qualified immunity on all of Plaintiffs' constitutional claims.<sup>5</sup>

15 6. Dismissal Without Prejudice of State Law Claims

16 When the Complaint was initially filed with this Court, the  
17 Court exercised original jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' § 1983 claims  
18 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question jurisdiction); the  
19 Court also exercised supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' state-  
20 law claims, pursuant to § 1367. See Compl. ¶ 2.3, ECF No. 1, at 2.  
21 Having now concluded that summary judgment is warranted on all of  
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23 <sup>5</sup> Plaintiffs' claims against the City of Wenatchee, which is premised on  
24 *Monell v. Dep't. of Soc. Servs.*, 436 U.S. 658 (1978), also fails. A  
25 required element of a *Monell* claim is a showing of a constitutional  
26 violation. *Long v. Cnty. Of L.A.*, 442 F.3d 1178, 1185 (9th Cir. 2006).  
Here, no constitutional violation has been shown.

1 Plaintiffs' federal claims, the only claims remaining are Plaintiffs'  
2 state-law claims.

3       The Court may decline to exercise supplemental jurisdiction when  
4 it has dismissed the claims for which it had original jurisdiction.  
5 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c)(3). The relevant considerations when deciding  
6 whether to continue to exercise supplemental jurisdiction following  
7 dismissal of all federal claims are "judicial economy, convenience and  
8 fairness to litigants," and comity with state courts. *United Mine*  
9 *Workers of Am. v. Gibbs*, 383 U.S. 715, 726 (1966). These factors  
10 usually lead to dismissing the case without prejudice when no federal  
11 claims remain. See *Gini v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep't*, 40 F.3d  
12 1041, 1046 (9th Cir. 1994). Having carefully considered these  
13 factors, the Court declines to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over  
14 Plaintiffs' remaining state-law claims. As this matter was originally  
15 filed with this Court and not removed from state court, remand is  
16 unavailable. *Pac. Gas & Elec. Co. v. Fibreboard Prods., Inc.*, 116 F.  
17 Supp. 377 (N.D. Cal. 1953) (citing § 1447(c)). Accordingly, the Court  
18 dismisses Plaintiffs' remaining state-law claims without prejudice.  
19 **Plaintiffs remain free to re-file these claims in state court; and**  
20 **pursuant to § 1367(d), the statute of limitations with respect to**  
21 **these claims shall be tolled while this suit has been pending and for**  
22 **thirty (30) days following entry of this Order, unless Washington law**  
23 **provides for a longer tolling period.**

24                                   **IV. CONCLUSION**

25       Plaintiffs have failed to adduce sufficient evidence to support  
26 their constitutional claims. Even if Plaintiffs had shown a

1 constitutional violation, Defendants are entitled to qualified  
2 immunity because none of their actions amount to a clear  
3 constitutional violation of which every reasonable officer would have  
4 been aware. And having found no further basis for federal subject  
5 matter jurisdiction, the Court declines to exercise supplemental  
6 jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' remaining state-law claims.

7 Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

8 1. Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment, **ECF No. 103**, is  
9 **GRANTED IN PART** (Plaintiffs' Due Process, Fourth Amendment,  
10 and First Amendment claims) and **DENIED AS MOOT IN PART**  
11 (Plaintiffs' Equal Protection and state-law claims).

12 2. The Clerk's Office is directed to **ENTER JUDGMENT** for  
13 Defendants on Plaintiffs' Due Process, Fourth Amendment and  
14 First Amendment claims.

15 3. Defendants' Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings, **ECF No.**  
16 **86**, is **DENIED AS MOOT**.

17 4. Plaintiffs' remaining state-law claims are **DISMISSED**  
18 **WITHOUT PREJUDICE**.

19 5. All other pending motions, deadlines, and hearings are  
20 **STRICKEN**.

21 6. The Clerk's Office is directed to **CLOSE** this file.

22 **IT IS SO ORDERED.** The Clerk's Office is directed to enter this  
23 Order and provide copies to all counsel.

24 **DATED** this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August 2013.

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
s/ Edward F. Shea

EDWARD F. SHEA

26 Senior United States District Judge

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ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND DENYING AS MOOT IN PART DEFENDANTS'  
MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT, DISMISSING PLAINTIFFS' STATE-LAW  
CLAIMS WITHOUT PREJUDICE, AND CLOSING FILE - 20